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To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/17/02 9:15am
Subject: Monopolies lead to Mediocrity

I have been a part of the computer industry since 1979 and so have observed the rise of Microsoft firsthand and also suffered through its consequences. It has puzzled me over the years why business leaders approach IT technology differently than other aspects of their business. Where else would you ever rely on a single vendor. If I was commissioned to buy a piece of hardware, it was always "Get me three quotes". However, if we needed to purchase software, first it was "Buy IBM" and now it is "Buy Microsoft". Was it fear or ignorance of all things technical?

Now, America must compete on a global stage. Allowing Microsoft to dominate such a key industry leads only to high prices for consumers and mediocrity in the products provided by the monopoly. Our free enterprise system requires competition to survive. That is why we have monopoly laws. One can only speculate on the motives of the DOJ in agreeing to such a ridiculous settlement. The decision to split Microsoft into two companies was clearly the right choice.

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